In Loving Memory
of
BISHOP MILTON MATHIS

June 7, 1908 - July 12, 1985

THE PRAYER GARDEN FAMILY REMEMBERS

Tuesday, July 16, 1985, 7:30 PM

PRAYER GARDEN
CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST
651 N. Sixth Street, San Jose, California

A Favorite Scripture

Therefore, if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold all things are become new.

II Corinthians 5:17

Obituary

For ye remember, brethren, our labour and travail:
for labouring night and day,
because we would not be chargeable unto any of you,
we preached unto you the gospel of God.

I. Thessalonians 2:9

Bishop Milton Mathis was born June 7, 1908 in Kingsbury, Texas; the ninth child of thirteen children born to the union of Sam and Molly Mathis. He attended school in McGreggor, Texas and later would study at the Bethany Bible College in Santa Cruz, California.

His family experienced poverty, but were religious people who loved God and instilled in the heart of young Milton, godly principles.

One evening in 1934, he accepted an invitation to attend a church service in Snyder, Texas, which resulted in his acceptance of Christ and baptism in the Holy Ghost. He served faithfully under the pastorage of Elder J. L. Langston for twelve years in Amarillo, Texas. During this time, he made a successful record as a faithful member, holding the office of YPWW President. In 1937, he was called to preach the gospel. In the same year, he married Miss Ruby Lee Cobbins. In 1942 he served his first pastorage in Brownville, Texas. In 1943 he was led by God to the state of California where he resided in Stockton, Calif. Three months later, he moved to San Jose, California and there founded the Prayer Garden Church of God in Christ.

The early days were filled with struggles and obstacles but through it all, young pastor Mathis continued to go forward. In 1944 he was appointed Assistant District Superintendent of the Monterey District. In 1950 an additional venture was added as a radio broadcast, "The Gospel Hour" was launched. This program brought people from miles around. Many were healed, saved, and delivered. They left their crutches and walking canes as a display of God's power.

In 1955 ground breaking services were held for a new church edifice and by 1959, the building of the sanctuary was completed and dedicatorial services were held. In 1958 he was appointed the District Superintendent of the San Jose District.

In the Northern California Jurisdiction, under the auspices of the late Bishop E. B. Stewart he served as State Chaplain, State Evangelist President, State President of Missions, and a member of the Executive Board. In 1960 he was consecrated and appointed Bishop of Freetown, Serraleone, West Africa, by the Late Bishop Samuel Crouch. In 1966 tragedy struck and God called Sis. Mathis to her reward.

Bishop Mathis was the recipient of many awards and accomodations, including the Charles Harrison Mason award. He continued to be active in his local community and served as a member of the Chamber of Commerce, Business Men's Fellowship, and Past President of the Ministerial Alliance. In 1969 he was joined in holy wedlock to Sis. Marlene Hall and to this union was born one daughter, Marlene Lorraine.

In the seventies, he began to serve under the leadership of Bishop E. E. Hamilton in the California Northwest Jurisdiction. Following the demise of Bishop S. R. Martin, Bishop Mathis was appointed Jurisdictional Bishop of the California Northwest Jurisdiction of the Church of God in Christ. He served as a dedicated and sincere servant of God. Through his administration and prayerful leadership, the jurisdiction continued to grow and reach new heights.

Our beloved Bishop departed this life, Friday evening, July 12, 1985 from his home in San Jose, California. His homegoing leaves to mourn his wife, Mrs. Marlene Mathis, a daughter, Marlene Lorraine of San Jose; a brother, Mr. Roy Mathis, a sister, Mrs. Maggie Caldwell, both of Los Angeles, a nephew, Rev. Sam Mathis of San Jose; a host of nieces and nephews; the saints of Prayer Garden Church of God in Christ, the California Northwest Jurisdiction of the Church of God in Christ, and a multitude of friends.

A Memorial Tribute
Family Night At Prayer Garden

Tuesday, July 16, 1985, 7:30 PM

PRAYER ..... *Elder A. Levias*

SCRIPTURE:

Old Testament ..... *Elder J. Relierford*
New Testament ..... *Elder R. Millentree*

CONGREGATIONAL SONG: *Bless That Wonderful Name Of Jesus*

MISTRESS OF CEREMONY ..... *Missionary Ressie Cameron*
Missionary Freddie Davis

AUXILIARIES:

Sunshine Band ..... *Sister Kaye Berring*
Purity Class ..... *Sister Vadie Osby*
Y.W.C.C. ..... *Sister Mamie Strickland*
Ministers Wives ..... *Sister Carolyn Bates*
Mothers Board ..... *Mother Sydney Bradley*
Senior Citizens ..... *Sister Shirley Campbell*

Usher Board
Senior ..... *Sister Udell Hamilton*
Junior ..... *Sister Debbie Hodge*

Hospitality ..... *Sister Georgia Hodge*
Deaconness ..... *Sister Margie Juniel*
Junior Church Mother ..... *Missionary Velma Hutchinson*
Women's Day President ..... *Missionary Frankie Strain*

Church Mother ..... *Mother Sophia Moore*

Brothers ..... *Brother Edgar Givens*

Ministers ..... *Elder D. Cameron*

REFLECTIONS AND INTRODUCTION OF SPEAKER ..... *Elder Paul Bates*
Assistant Pastor

MESSAGE ..... *Bishop C. D. Williams*
Anchorage, Alaska

PALLBEARERS

Elder J. Carr
Elder R. Millentree
Elder J. Reliford
Elder A. Levias

Minister R. Osby
Minister T. Safford
Minister T. Turner

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CHARLES A. JONES, FUNERAL DIRECTOR